

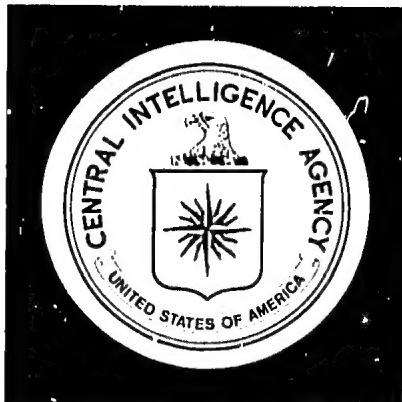
Approved For Release 25X1
2008/02/15 :
CIA-RDP85T00875R001100010

de

Approved For Release
2008/02/15 :
CIA-RDP85T00875R001100010

73 3-2
Top Secret

25X1



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

LOAN COPY
Return to DSB

CRS/SAIO
Lipac

25X1

Developments in Indochina

FEPPAC DIV
MAR 5 12 02 PM '73

State Dept. review completed

25X1

Top Secret

127

25X1

2 March 1973

Page Denied

25X1

25X1

2 March 1973

DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA

(Information as of 1500)

Page

SOUTH VIETNAM

1

There is little action on the military front and little progress in sorting out truce team difficulties.

2

25X1

LAOS

3

Only minor incidents mar the cease-fire. The rightists are more resigned to reality.

CAMBODIA

4

Government forces are making some progress east of the Mekong.

25X1

SOUTH VIETNAM

Military action continues to be light throughout the country, with relatively few violations reported. In the southern two military regions (MRs), Communist acts of terror, especially assassinations, appear to be increasing somewhat. The killing of a hamlet chief in MR-3 and of two more in the delta brings to at least four the number of local government administrators killed this past week, suggesting a reversion to more traditional Viet Cong ways of extending their influence.

25X1

25X1

The Status of the Truce Teams

Both sides have increased their rhetoric as a result of the latest impasse over prisoner releases. The Viet Cong's Liberation Radio has again charged the South Vietnamese Government and the US with allowing Communist delegates on the truce teams to be subjected to demonstrations and in some cases to personal injury. North Vietnamese and Viet Cong members of the Joint Military Commission (JMC) teams stationed in Hue and Da Nang were sent back to Saigon on 1 March, following their request that they be pulled out of the area because of the alleged threat of injury as a result of popular demonstrations.

The head of the Viet Cong delegation to the JMC in Saigon, General Tra, reportedly has left the capital for the Communist-controlled district capital of Loc Ninh for a few days. According to Ambassador Bunker, Tra's trip is for the purpose of discussing and coordinating arrangements for the release of prisoners "in subsequent phases." Ambassador Bunker believes this will put the prisoner releases "back on the track."

25X1

25X1

2 March 1973

25X1

Page Denied

LAOS

Only a few minor incidents marred the cease-fire on 1 March. Isolated shellings and clashes occurred near Paksong and Khong Sedone in the south and near Ban Houei Sai in the northwest, but for the first time since the cease-fire went into effect, government units reported no casualties. The Lao Air Force continued to fly tactical missions in several sectors on 1 March. [REDACTED]

25X1

Grumbling Generals

Lao Army generals are displeased with the peace agreement, but apparently are resigned to its terms. [REDACTED]

25X1

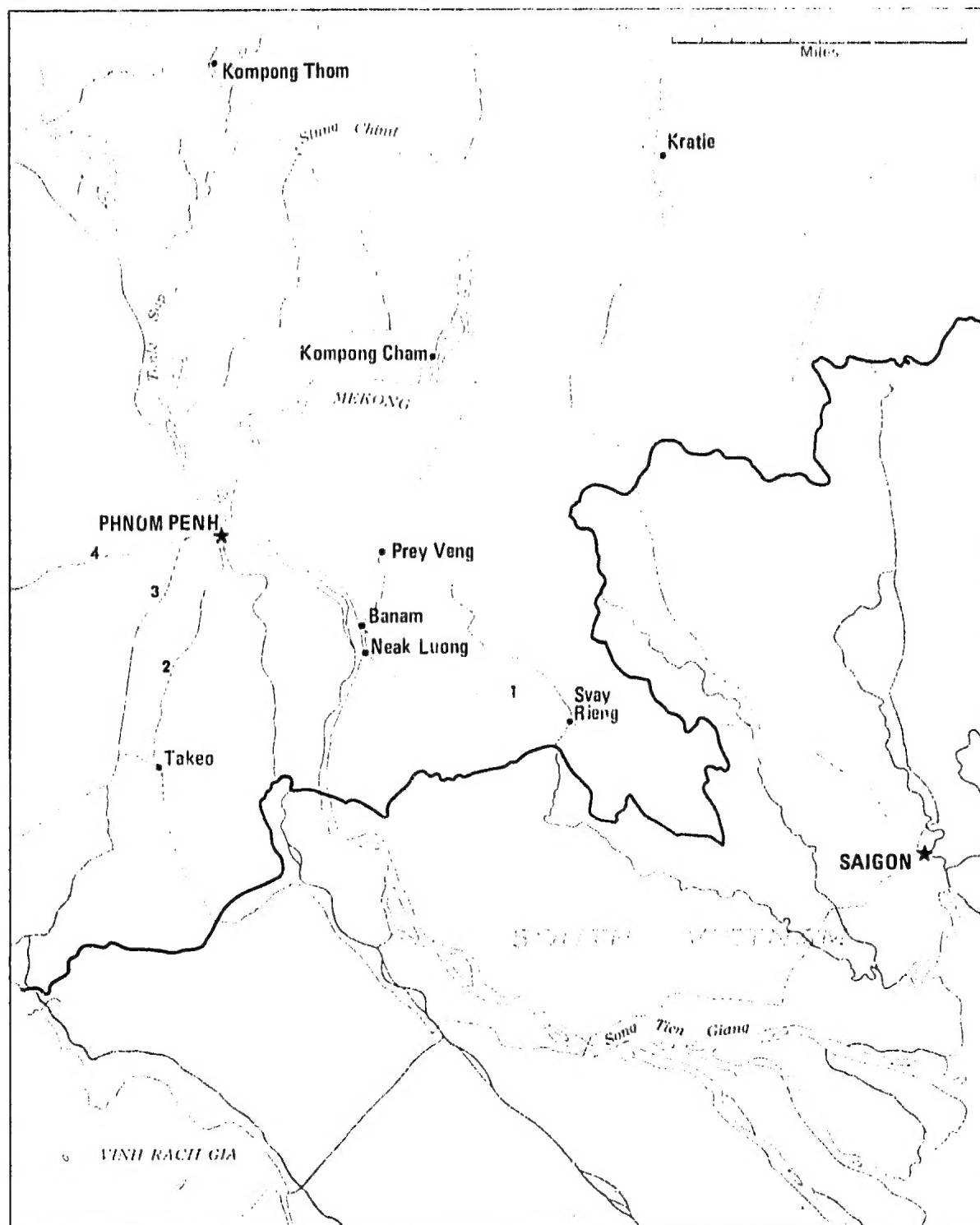
several officers, including Commander in Chief Bounpone and Chief of Staff Phasouk, last week were aghast when they learned of Souvanna's concessions to the Pathet Lao [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

2 March 1973

25X1



554196 3-73

CAMBODIA

Government forces are making some progress in clearing Khmer insurgent elements from the east bank of the Mekong River. Since their reoccupation of Banam on 27 February, Cambodian troops have regained control over the river bank west of the village and over Route 15 from Banam south to Neak Luong. A six-mile stretch of Route 15 north of Banam is still in insurgent hands.

The insurgents also still hold a ten-mile section of the Mekong's east bank below Neak Luong. The government operation to clear this area has been delayed by disciplinary problems and a lack of leadership.

The government has also had some disciplinary problems in the Route 2 area about 18 miles south of Phnom Penh, where on 1 March most members of two battalions participating in a clearing operation along the highway broke ranks and retreated to the capital. These units were only partially trained and at half strength. Farther south on Route 2, insurgent forces continue to probe and harass government positions between Takeo and the South Vietnam border.

In the north, government forces at Kompong Thom are being supported by US air strikes as they try to expand the defensive perimeter around that isolated town's airfield.

25X1

2 March 1973